



Embrace

I Peter 4:10-11 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace:
11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God;
whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

I Peter 2:9 [KJV] But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar [peripoiēsis] people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; . . .

I Corinthians 14:12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church.

Romans 12:6-8 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Finding Our Groove [Abilities] [Romans 12:6-8]

So many opportunities, so little time! Administration, Discernment, Evangelism, Faith, Giving, Knowledge, Mercy, Wisdom, Oh my! Where do we begin? Seek the Lord through prayer and His word, Explore the gifts described in scripture with other believers, and pursue wisdom from the Holy Spirit concerning our spiritual gifts.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS vs. NATURAL ABILITIES What's the difference?

1. **SOURCE** [I PETER 4:10-11]
2. **PECULIAR** [I PETER 2:9]
3. **FOCUS** [I CORINTHIANS 14:12]

WHERE DO I FIT? [Romans 12:6-8]

1. **Prophecy** [prophēteia] - communicating and enforcing revealed truth
2. **Service** [diakonia - table waiter] - serving with a willing and positive attitude
3. **Teaching** [didasko - cause to learn] directing people to a deeper understanding of the word of God for proper application
4. **Exhortation** [paraklésis] initiating reproof [speaking truth in love] and comfort to people in need
5. **Generosity** [metadidómi] sharing with grace and gratitude
6. **Leadership** [proistemi] enthusiastic influence
7. **Acts of Mercy** [eleōn/hilarotēti] engaging people with compassion, grace [mercy], and joy

Discussion Questions/Prayer

- [1] Which difference between "spiritual gifts" and "abilities" stood out to you the most? Why?
- [2] Read I Peter 2:9 [KJV]. In this verse, believers are called a "peculiar people," this distinctive phrase points to our intimate relationship with God. How does it make you feel when you are reminded that you were not only chosen by God, but you were chosen for a purpose?
- [3] Read Romans 12:6-8. What spiritual gifts do you think you may have that are mentioned in these verses?
- [4] Pray that God uses your spiritual gifts to further his kingdom as you walk in these areas of ministry with passion.

ABILITIES

When it comes to your talents and abilities it is important to consider not just what you can do, but what you love to do. Think about that thing that if you had to do it forever, you'd be happy. God is not limited to giving us just one talent or ability so start the discovery process of your gifts today.

[Congratulations You're Gifted, Fields and Rees]

Begin the journey! Start your S.H.A.P.E. Inventory today!